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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon.



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PAYTON HOUSE,

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

JANUARY, 1901.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the following Report for the
year 1900 :

The population for that year is estimated as 8,570, the
figures for the last census enumeration being 8,318.

When the census is taken during the current year it will be possible to see if the population of the Borough has increased during the last ten years as it did during the previous decade. If this is the case the above estimate of the population will be correct.

The death-rate for the year 1900 is 16·3 per 1,000 inhabitants which is about the average rate for the past ten years.

The birth-rate is 20 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is unusually low.

The Infantile death-rate is 131 per 1,000 births registered.

The Zymotic death-rate is ·3, which is about one-third of the average.



Table I. BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON [For Whole District].

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents register'd in District.	Deaths of residents register'd beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births register'd	Number.	Rate*				Number.	Rate*
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890	8,298	187	22.5	29	155	162	19.5	47	20		142	17.1
1891	8,324	232	27.8	22	94	149	17.9	43	22		127	15.2
1892	8,351	195	23.3	23	138	177	21.0	41	15		162	19.2
1893	8,378	236	28.1	19	80	156	18.6	33	16		140	16.7
1894	8,406	182	21.6	26	142	154	18.3	35	20	2	136	16.1
1895	8,433	209	24.7	24	114	186	22.0	45	24		162	19.3
1896	8,460	213	25.1	36	169	163	19.2	38	17		146	17.2
1897	8,487	188	22.1	17	90	147	17.3	44	32		115	13.5
1898	8,515	183	21.4	26	140	153	17.9	35	21		132	15.5
1899	8,542	208	24.3	21	100	153	17.9	43	31		122	14.2
Averages for years 1890-1899	8,419	203	24	24	122	160	18.9	40.4	21.8		138.4	16.4
1900	8,570	175	20	23	131	172	20	43	32	1	140	16.3

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11. By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water)

Total population at all ages 8,318
Number of inhabited houses 1,810
Average number of persons per house 4.5

At
Census
of
1891.

Table II. BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

This Table is omitted in the absence of recognised divisions of known populations.

Table III.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality to the Stratford-on-Avon Joint Infectious Hospital and to the Stratford-on-Avon Hospital (Enteric).						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.													
Small-pox ...						65 and upwards.													
Cholera ...																			
Diphtheria ...																			
Membranous croup ...																			
Erysipelas ..	9																		
Scarlet fever ...	31		12	14	4	1													
Typhus fever ...																			
Enteric fever ...					3	2													
Relapsing fever ...																			
Continued fever ...																			
Puerperal fever ...																			
Plague ...																			
Totals ...	40		12	14	7	3													36

Table IV.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Small-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet fever								
Whooping-cough								
Diphtheria and membranous croup								
Croup								
{ Typhus								
Fever { Enteric	1				1			1
{ Other continued								
Epidemic influenza	3					1	2	1
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	2					2		
Enteritis	3	2					1	
Puerperal fever								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases	1				1			
Phthisis	9				1	8		3
Other tubercular diseases	4	1	2		1			1
Cancer, malignant disease	6					1	5	1
Bronchitis	14	5	1			3	5	2
Pneumonia	17	2		1		7	7	
Pleurisy	3		1			1	1	
Other diseases of Respiratory org.								
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of liver	1						1	
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	4	4						
Diseases and accidents of parturi- tion								
Heart diseases	9					2	7	2
Accidents	1	1						
Suicides								
All other causes	62	8	4	2		9	39	
All causes	140	23	8	3	4	34	68	11

TABLES III. AND IV.

It will be seen on reference to these tables that sickness and mortality from Zymotic disease has not been in excess, and that Diphtheria and Puerperal fever do not appear under either heading.

SCARLET FEVER was notified in nearly every month of the year. In the autumn the cases notified were in most instances children attending St. Gregory's Schools, but, acting on my advice, all scholars suspected were excluded until medically examined, and since November there has only been one further case.

I discovered one child to be suffering from the disease in a caravan, which had been in the town since the "mop" in October.

All of the cases which occurred were sent to Hospital, a few hours after being notified, and all premises (caravan included) promptly disinfected.

In one instance where a case occurred on premises used as a Laundry the laundry work was disinfected by steam and then put into the hands of another Laundry.

The type of disease was very mild, and frequently only recognised with difficulty.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Of the five cases notified, two were patients from outside the Borough sent in for Hospital treatment—one being from Chipping Campden and the other from Henley-in-Arden. The other three were from Meer Street, Henley Street and Greenhill Street respectively, and there was little direct evidence to go upon as to the source of infection. In all cases where enteric fever occurs on premises where well-water is used, the well-supply is analysed.

 SCHOOLS.

It has not been necessary to close any schools on account of epidemic disease.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am informed by your Surveyor that 46 new connections embracing 37 separate supplies have been made with the mains in the course of the year, making a total of 735 connections and 1,300 supplies to date.

The quarterly analysis of the public supply of water shows a uniform satisfactory standard of purity. It is of the greatest importance that constant surveillance of the gathering ground of the water be maintained.

SCAVENGING.

I have during the past year reported adversely on the filling in of the Bancroft pond with the general refuse of the town.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS.

It is advisable to adopt the new regulations referring to these.

The general interest taken in bovine tuberculosis as a source of danger to human beings suggests as one of the first steps to take—the improvement of the housing of milch cows, as it is well known that insufficient cubic space and want of sunlight with dampness are the most potent factors in the production of tuberculosis in man and beast. The Stratford Hospital authorities have decided to give the preference in contracting for a milk supply to a dealer who can produce a certificate that his cows are free from tuberculosis; the certificate to be based on the result of tuberculin inoculation. I understand that results so obtained are not infallible, but such a certificate is valuable, and if combined with a certificate to the effect that the housing and cleanliness of the cattle were of a high standard would be still more so.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.

No action has been taken under this Act during the past year. During the year some of the most delapidated property in the town has been improved. It would be much of an improvement if Russell Court, Ely Street, was opened up to the street and lighted; after dark it is not satisfactory. Mason's Court, Rother Street, would be much improved by paving.

VACCINATION.

Returns on Vaccination are appended to this report.

BAKEHOUSES.

These are fairly satisfactory.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B.



